

CBS NEWS

A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Dear Sirs:

I sincerely hope that the time is now more favorable for the consideration of my long-standing request for entry visas to The People's Republic of China.

It is now almost two years since I first cabled and wrote Premier Chou En-lai and almost one year since I visited the Embassy of The People's Republic of China in Ottawa, Canada. For your convenience, I enclose copies of my original cable and letter.

It has been one year since the broadcast of my film, "Misunderstanding China," a copy of which I presented to the Embassy in Ottawa and which, I understand, has been received in Peking. The film was also made available to the Southern Film Corporation in Hong Kong.

This broadcast is the only one of its kind attempting to deal with the false images held by Americans of the Chinese and to deal realistically with the history of Chinese-American relations. It has received a wide and serious response. (At the time it was broadcast it had an unusually high rating of almost 30 per cent of the audience, more than ten million persons, compared with the NBC broadcast in the same week that received only a 13 per cent rating and an audience of five million persons.)

Since then, "Misunderstanding China" has been purchased and rebroadcast in seventeen countries. It has been used extensively in universities, schools, and adult education programs and in meetings sponsored by the United States-China People's Friendship Association. It is also being used by The National Council of Churches in an educational program for missionaries and laymen to understand better and to see more realistically the historical role and consequences of the missionary's activities in China and elsewhere.

Personally, I have been a student of China for more than fifteen years including two years of advanced study at Harvard University. I have studied the Chinese language. I have a sincere and abiding respect for the Chinese people and a deeply held concern for improving communications and understanding between the peoples of China and the United States.

In pursuit of these aims I have several specific proposals for television broadcasts which I believe to be in the profound interests of both Chinese and Americans.

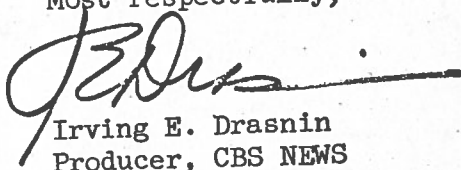
One project which I offer for your consideration could be filmed simply in Shanghai. Shanghai is not only one of the great cities of the world but it is also an important symbol for both Chinese and Americans. As I referred to only briefly in "Misunderstanding China," Shanghai is an archive of the myths Americans have about the Chinese people. Today, the city is a symbol of China's strength and progress and a city of great historical significance as the birthplace of the Chinese Communist Party. This is only a brief outline of this one proposal, but an entire film about Shanghai would speak eloquently of Chinese-American relations and of China herself, past and present.

If this particular proposal is not possible at this time, I have in mind other equally important projects. I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to discuss these with you should the time now be appropriate.

I respectfully submit again my request to visit and to film with your help a television presentation in The People's Republic of China. I and my CBS NEWS team are organized and prepared to undertake such a project at your earliest convenience and we can leave for The People's Republic of China at any time.

I look forward to your earliest response.

Most respectfully,



Irving E. Drasnin
Producer, CBS NEWS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Department of Information
Peking, The People's Republic of China.

February 16, 1973

CBS NEWS

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524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

May 8, 1973

His Excellency, Ambassador Yao Kuang
Embassy of The People's Republic of China
415 St. Andrews Street
Ottawa, Canada

Dear Ambassador Yao:

It was a privilege to have the honor of meeting you in Ottawa last week and to discuss with you the possibilities of CBS NEWS filming a television documentary in The People's Republic of China..

I wish to take this opportunity to emphasize again my deep and abiding commitment to continue my work of the past in the interests of promoting greater understanding and friendship between the peoples of China and of the United States.

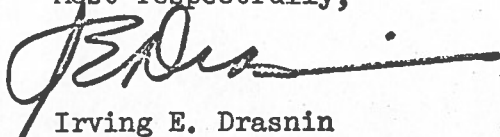
As you know, in behalf of CBS NEWS I have submitted proposals for your consideration in the past. Both in writing and in telephone conversations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of Information in Peking, I have outlined in detail a proposal for a documentary broadcast about Shanghai. We are most anxious to film this documentary and hopefully await word of its approval. This film would be undertaken by myself and a CBS NEWS camera team of four persons, and the filming could be restricted to the greater Shanghai area. Perhaps this broadcast about Shanghai is more feasible and logistically more possible at this time.

Mr. Ronning's proposal, in which CBS NEWS also has a sincere interest, is a project we would like to do in addition to the Shanghai film. We have great respect for Mr. Ronning and find great merit in his proposal for a documentary broadcast about the people of China using as our theme one or more of the great rivers of China. In the event that both this and the Shanghai project meet with the Foreign Ministry's approval, I am certain we could arrange to film both and present two hours of national television programming on The People's Republic of China.

At the request of Mr. Wang Chu-liang, I am sending a print of my film "Misunderstanding China" for him to see. Both personally and professionally I hope that I will be able to continue this work in the near future.

Again, please accept my deepest appreciation for your courtesy and hospitality during my recent visit. I look forward to the occasion of meeting you again soon.

Most respectfully,



Irving E. Drasnin
Producer